

ON A SPECIMEN OF *CARANX CARANGUS* BLOCH
(CARANGIDAE : PISCES) WITHOUT A PELVIC FIN

ABSTRACT

The present note reports the absence of the pelvic fin of the right side of the fish *Caranx carangus* Bloch from the South-East Coast of India. It has been found that, while the pelvic fin on the left side and its girdle are normal, but for slight thickening of the 4th and 5th rays, the absence of the fin on the right side may be congenital.

THE absence of pelvic fins in fishes has been reported by several authors as may be seen from the bibliographies of such anomalies prepared by Dawson (1964, 1966). In India, Hora (1921), Kaushik (1960) and James and Badrudeen (1969) have reported on such abnormalities in various fishes. Recently a specimen of *Caranx carangus* Bloch, lacking the pelvic fin on the right side (Fig. 1) was collected at

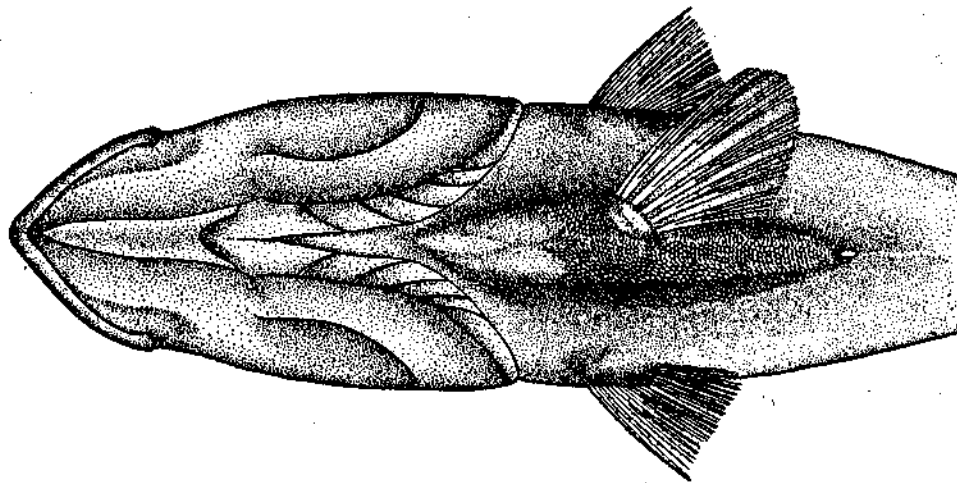


Fig. 1. Ventral view of *Caranx carangus* Bloch without the right pelvic fin.

Pudumadam (Gulf of Mannar) in the vicinity of Mandapam on the South-East Coast of India. The specimen is deposited in the Reference Collection Museum

of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (No. CMFRI F. 82/194 a). The morphometric and meristic data of the specimen are as follows :

D₁ VIII ; D₂ I, 21 ; A II, 16 ; P₁ 20 Ll. scutes 35

Measurements in mm are as follows : Total length 235 ; standard length 182 ; height 65 ; head 56 ; diameter of eye 14 ; length of snout 15 ; length of curved portion of lateral line 76 ; length of pectoral fin 67 ; and length of pelvic fin (of left side) 24.

The presence of a single series of strong conical teeth in each jaw with an inner band of fine teeth in upper jaw and by the ventrally naked breast are additional specific characters. The specimen resembles any normal specimen of this species but for the absence of pelvic fin on right side. The place of origin of the right pelvic fin is entirely scaly, continuous with the body squamation. A dissection on the finless side did not reveal the presence of the pelvic girdle or its rudiment.

The left pelvic fin is normal supported by its girdle, but the 4th and 5th rays are slightly thickened and strong, their thickness near the base measuring 3 mm unlike in normal specimens.

Associated with the absence of the pelvic fin on right side, there is neither any abnormality externally in the specimen nor any change in the shape of the body. It would appear that the deficiency has not affected the growth of the fish. The finless region being scaly without any trace of injury in the region, and the absence of the right half of the pelvic girdle is suggestive that the abnormality may be congenital.

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